

Supreme Court Workgroup on the WSBA Structure

The Supreme Court is convening a Workgroup on the WSBA structure. The Chief Justice, as chair, with 10 members will serve on the Workgroup.

Composition of Workgroup:

- 1 member from the Supreme Court -- Chief Justice, Mary Fairhurst, Chair
- 3 members from the WSBA Board of Governors (BOG)—can be either officers and/or BOG members (BOG selects)
- 3 members from the WSBA Sections—can be either chairs and/or members of the Sections (Supreme Court, in consultation with BOG, selects from applications)
- 3 members from the Supreme Court appointed boards that WSBA administers—can be either members and/or chairs (Supreme Court selects from applications)
- 1 public member (Supreme Court selects from applications)

Charter:

To review and assess WSBA structure in light of (1) recent case law with First Amendment and antitrust implications; (2) recent reorganizations by other state Bar associations and/or groups and their reasoning; and (3) the additional responsibilities of the WSBA due to its administration of Supreme Court appointed boards.

The Workgroup, as desired or needed, will invite input (which could be information or opinions) from those with subject matter expertise on issues involved in review, assessment and potential recommendations.

Based on this review and assessment, the Workgroup will make a recommendation to the Supreme Court as to future structure, for example, whether to maintain the status quo; divide into 2 organizations—one mandatory and one voluntary; or do some sort of hybrid where still one organization but perhaps with 2 governing bodies—one for the mandatory and one for the voluntary responsibilities. There may be additional suggestions that the Workgroup suggests or considers.

Expectations: The Workgroup will receive and share knowledge and have open, collaborative, respectful conversations. Meetings will be open to the public.

Anticipated duration: 6 to 8 months. Meetings every 3 to 4 weeks once Workgroup members identified. First meeting of Workgroup will be in January 2019.

For members applying for positions the Supreme Court selects, applications should be sent to the Supreme Court, Attention: C.J. Mary Fairhurst, PO Box 40929, Olympia, WA 98504. In the application, indicate the reason for your interest, pertinent background and which category of Workgroup membership applies. Deadline for applications is December 7, 2018. In making its selections, the court will be looking for diversity in all its aspects.

Dated: November 9, 2018